

we can pick up the proclamation. Thanking you sincerely,

With warmest regards,  
**BONNIE G. MALMSTROM,**  
*Secretary/Treasurer.*

**NICO FERRARO: 2000 LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, ALF-CIO**

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nico Ferraro, business manager of the Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local 230, as he is honored by the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO at the Eighteenth Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet.

Nico Ferraro is being honored as the 2000 Labor Leader of the Year because he is an active labor leader who has gained a reputation for getting things done. His activism caught the attention of Local 230, and he was elected to the executive board in 1989. In 1992, he was elected pipefitter business representative and served in that capacity until his appointment as business manager in 1997.

As business manager of Local 230, he represents the 1600 member local union in many ways. He is a trustee to the pension and health and welfare funds, the secretary to the Joint Apprenticeship Committee, delegate to the District Council, and executive board member to the Building Trades and the Central Labor Council. He serves on a statewide committee for the International Union and is also a hearing officer for the International Union. He is a management trustee for the OPEIU pension.

Nico is dedicated to improving the wages, pension, and working conditions of his membership and demonstrating to all of San Diego the benefits of union membership. He has spoken before the Industrial Welfare Commission, the California Apprenticeship Council, to church groups and to community college students on the benefits of being a union member.

He is involved in all aspects of the labor movement. A number of his pro-union letters to the editor have been published in San Diego newspapers. He co-chairs the Labor Council Street Heat Committee. He raises money for Local 230's scholarship fund. Recently, he was appointed to the Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Board where he will be asked to determine the wages, work hours, and working conditions for the mining, drilling, and construction industries.

Nico's dad, uncles, brothers and neighbors in New York City were union members. He learned at an early age the value of union membership. He served a five-year steamfitter apprenticeship with one of the original United Autoworkers locals, Local 638. From the minute he was initiated into the union, he knew it was for him! A highlight was his work on the 110 story World Trade Center twin towers building in New York.

Nico has been married for the past fourteen years to his wife Lynn, who is a member of the California Teachers Association.

As a friend and supporter of the working man and woman, I want to sincerely congratulate Nico Ferraro on receiving this prestigious award for his long hours and intensive work in the cause of justice. It is an honor to know him and to support his work!

**SECTION 907 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT**

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I stress the importance of retaining Section 907 of the Foreign Assistance Act in the Foreign Operations Bill.

For more than 10 years Azerbaijan has cut off the transportation of food, fuel and medicine from the United States and the United Nations to our ally Armenia. Armenia and its neighbor, Nagorno-Karabagh are both landlocked, and these blockades are virtually isolating them from the rest of the world.

Section 907 prohibits United States aid to Azerbaijan and constitutes a focused, appropriate message to the government of Azerbaijan that the United States won't support efforts to marginalize, via blockade, entire populations of neighboring states.

Section 907 must remain in place until the President of Azerbaijan confirms that country is taking steps to cease blockades and offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

I encourage my colleagues to support Section 907 in the Foreign Operations bill.

**AUTHORIZING BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO PROVIDE COST SHARING FOR ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR UPPER COLORADO AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 25, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H.R. 2348, I rise to urge its approval.

This bill is an important one for Colorado and the other States within the upper basin of the Colorado River and the basin of the San Juan River.

The recovery program for endangered fish in the upper basin of the Colorado river is a cooperative program involving the State of Colorado and our neighboring States of Utah and Wyoming; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Western Area Power Administration, environmental organizations, and water-development interests in all three states.

The State of Colorado is also a participant in the recovery program for the San Juan program, along with New Mexico, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes, USFWS and Bureau of Reclamation, the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, and water development interests.

Both recovery programs are aimed at recovering the endangered fish in ways that meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act while minimizing conflicts and allowing continued utilization of the area's scarce water resources for this and other purposes in ways that are consistent with applicable state laws, interstate compacts, and Supreme Court decrees allocating water among the states.

The purpose of the legislation is to provide a specific authorization for the funding that is necessary for implementation of these programs. Such funding has been consistently provided in recent years, but having such a specific authorization will provide greater certainty for all concerned.

The bill is the product of a cooperative effort among the participants in the programs and other interested parties. It is a sound and balanced measure that merits strong support. I am glad to have the opportunity to join with Chairman HANSEN and the other sponsors of this legislation in urging its passage by the House and hope that the Senate will act promptly to send it to the President for signature into law.

**H.R. 1248, THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT**

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 27, 2000*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Justice estimates that between 1 million and 4 million women are physically abused by their husbands or live-in partners each year.

Justice also reports that females account for 39 percent of the hospital emergency department visits for violence-related injuries.

According to another poll, up to 40 percent of teenage girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend.

Family violence costs the nation upwards of \$10 billion annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity.

Mr. Speaker, I have only touched on the tip of the iceberg. Unlike many people, we are in a position to help turn these statistics around.

We can begin by passing H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and help the thousands of men and the millions of women who face abuse in their own homes feel a little safer in knowing that we are here and we are listening and will once again fulfill our promise and help them escape from abuse and end the cycle of violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, not only for the men and women being abused today but for our children who may be the victims of tomorrow.